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Controversial Books

Grand Canyon University RDG – 585

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CONTROVERSIAL BOOKS 2

**Book #1**

1. How to Eat Fried Worms  
2. Author: Thomas Rockwell  
3. This book is about a boy who makes a bet with one of his friends that he can eat 15 worms in 15 days. This bet stems from a conversation that a group of boys are having about disgusting foods.  
4. This is a fiction book.  
5. The parts of the book that are questionable are the bet because it is considered promoting gambling, and the eating of the worm because it is approving the participation of children in a unacceptable activity.  
6. The book reviews from Barnes and Nobles state that this book is a must read, funny, amazing, and the best book ever. The bulk of the people enjoyed reading the book and felt that is was appropriate for children to read.  
Retrieved from, www.barnesandnoble.com  
7. This novel is noted for being the 13th challenged and banned book of the 1990s in the American Libraries.  
8. The developmental age for this book would be 10 and older.  
  
**Book #2**

1. Deenie

2. Author: Judy Blume

3. This book is about a teenage girl who is dealing with a medical condition, an overbearing mother, and life.

4. This book is fiction/young adult literature.

5. The pats of the book that are considered questionable are the parts when she is discussing touching her private parts to fall asleep and in the shower. This is questionable because it deals with masturbation, a sexual act.

6. For the most part the comments on goodreads.com all speak of the girl and her dealing with her medical condition along with other family issues. There is not a comment that speaks on the subject of her masturbating.

Retrieved from [www.goodreads.com](http://www.goodreads.com)

CONTROVERSIAL BOOKS 3

7. The book was number 42 on the 100 most frequently Challenged Books of 119-2000.

8. This book is appropriate for children who are 13 and older.

**Book #3**

1. *Bridge to Terabitha*
2. Author: Katerine Paterson
3. This book is about two friends that form an imaginary world that consists of king and queens. This book also deals with the accidental death of one of the children.
4. The book’s genre is a realistic fiction/ fantasy
5. The situations in the book that makes the book questionable is the fact the word “lord” is used outside of prayer, and the little girl does not attend church.
6. According to comments on Amazon most people enjoyed the book, and feel that it should be on the censored list. They stated that the book was a heartfelt story that children should read.

Retrieved from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

1. The book has been on the banned list since 1990, coming in at number eight on the American Library Association’s list of the 100 most Frequently Challenged books.
2. The book is appropriate for children 10 and older.

**Book # 4**

1. *Of Mice and Men*
2. Author John Steinbeck
3. This book is about two migrant ranch work who travel from place to place in search of a job during the Great Depression in California. These men are very different but they share a friendship that complaints each personality.
4. The book’s genre is a fictional novel.
5. The situations that make this book questionable is it uses racial slurs, profanity, and it contain vulgar and offensive language.
6. According to the comments found on the Barnes and Noble web page most people consider this book a classic that is a great read. Most of the people stated that this book was a required book for them in high school.

Retrieved from [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)

1. The book has been challenged 54 times since it was published in 1936. The book appears on the American’s List of the most challenged books in the 21st century.
2. The book is appropriate for the children ages 15 and older.

CONTROVERSIAL BOOKS 4

**Book # 5**

1. *Blubber*
2. Author: Judy Blume
3. This is book is told from the point of view of one of the bullies in the story. It focuses on fifth graders who get pleasure degrading others.
4. This book is fiction.
5. The book is considered questionable because of the language, inappropriate behavior, and because it promotes bullying by not allowing the bullies to get punished.
6. According to the comments on the Amazon book web page one person writes “the book is disturbing, but honest.” Others agree that it shows the realistic life of what goes on in schools and life of children.

Retrieved from amazon.com.

1. The book appeared at number 30 on the 100 most Frequently Challenged Books of 1990-2000.
2. This book is age appropriate for children 10 and older.

**Book # 6**

1. *It’s Perfectly Normal: Changing Bodies, Growing UP, Sex, and Sexual Health*
2. Author: Robbie Harris
3. This is a children’s book about going through puberty.
4. This is a non-fiction book.
5. The book is considered questionable because it addresses the human body, and sexuality.
6. The general public found this book to be very informative, and it covers topics that children and teens have questions about. The book addresses these issues in a fun productive manner.

Retrieved from www.robieharris.com

1. The book is considered highly controversial and is number 12 on the American Library Associations Most Challenged Books of 2000-2009
2. This book is age appropriate for children ages 10 and older.

**Book # 7**

1. *And Tango Makes Three*
2. Author: Peter Parnell and Justin Richardson

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1. The story is about two male penguins that raise a chick of their own by using the egg the zoo keeper gave them.
2. The genre of this book is realistic fiction.
3. Parents and different organization find this book to be inappropriate because both of the penguins are male.
4. The general public does not really understand why this book would be considered censored. One person felt that the two male penguins could have been considered as best friends.

Retrieved from www.blog.sfgate.com

1. This book has been banned since 2005.
2. The developmental age for this book would to be eight to ten years old.

**Book # 8**

1. *It’s So Amazing: A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Babies, and Families.*
2. Author: Robbie Harris
3. This book is about pregnancy, childbirth, sexual development, love reproduction, STDs, and more.
4. This is a non-fiction book.
5. The content of the entire book and the pictures are some questionable situations from this year.
6. The comments on the Amazon web page gives the book high praises. The readers felt that this book was tastefully done.

Retrieved from www.amazon.com

1. This book was number ten in the 2005 ALA’s #1 most challenged books, and it is currently now number 37 on the ALA‘s 100 most banned books of the 21th century. .
2. The developmental age of children 10 and older.

CONTROVERSAL BOOKS 6

**Book # 9**

1. *Maggie Goes on a Diet*
2. Author: Paul Kramer
3. This book is about a 14 year old girl who is overweight and is being bullied about her size. Soon she learns that in order to stop the bullying she has to lose weight, and she does. She becomes friends with her bullies, and also becomes a soccer star.
4. This book is fiction.
5. This book is questionable because it contains weight loss towards children.
6. The book was published in 2011, and had received very critical reviews before it was published. Once the book was published it was given a new name *Maggie Eats Healthier.* This was done to down play the negative image about children and diets..

Retrieved from www.goodreads.com

1. This book does not have a censorship history.
2. The appropriate age for this book is ten and older.

**Book # 10**

1. *Halloween ABC*
2. Author: Eve Merriam
3. This is a book of poetry for children that are related to a Halloween story that relates to each letter of the alphabets.
4. The genre of this book is poetry.
5. The frightening and gruesome subject matter in this book are the situations that are questionable.
6. The comments from the Good Reads web page centers around religion part of Halloween, and how most people don’t celebrate Halloween, but call it by another name.
7. This book is on the American Library Association list of the 100 most Frequently Challenged Books of 1990-2000.
8. The age group that is appropriate for this book is 10 and older.

**Book #11**

1. *The Junie B. Jones Series*
2. Author: Barbara Parks
3. These books are about a young girl and all the trouble that she gets into.

CONTROVERSIAL BOOKS 7

1. These books are fiction.
2. The situations in the books that are considered questionable they use degrading words and poor grammar.
3. According to the reviews on Epinions people listed their pros and cons of these books. The pros were that the books are funny that are told from a child’s point of view. The cons of the books are that they all use bad grammar in them, and this makes it hard for adults to read.

Retrieved from [www.epinions.com](http://www.epinions.com)

1. This book was number 71 on the banned /challenged books of 2000-2009.
2. These books are age appropriate for children 9 and older.

**Book # 12**

1. *Bless Me, Ultima*
2. Author: Rudolfo Anaya
3. This is a story of a young boy’s spiritual change in his culture, and social changes in the American Southwest during World War II.
4. This book is historical fiction.
5. The book contains adult language, violent content, and some references of sex to create questionable situations.
6. The general public gave mixed reviews about this book. Some people felt this book was boring, and others enjoyed reading it.

Retrieved from www.goodreads.com

1. This book has been included on the list of commonly challenged books in the United States since 2008.
2. This book is appropriate for ages 10 and older.

**Book # 13**

1. *The Earth, MY Butt, and Other Big Round Things*
2. Author: Carolyn Mackler
3. This book is about a high school girl who is very self-conscious about being overweight. She has a controlling mother, a thoughtless father, a sister that joins the Peace Corps to get away from their mom, and a brother who gets suspended from college for committing a date rape.
4. This book is fiction.

COMTROVERSIAL BOOKS 8

1. The questionable situation of this book is the use profanity and sexual content.
2. The readers on Barnes and Nobles all seem to enjoy this book.

Retrieved from www.barnesandnoble.com

1. This book was number ten on the ALA’s top 100 Banned book list in 2009
2. The developmental age for children for this book is 14 and older.